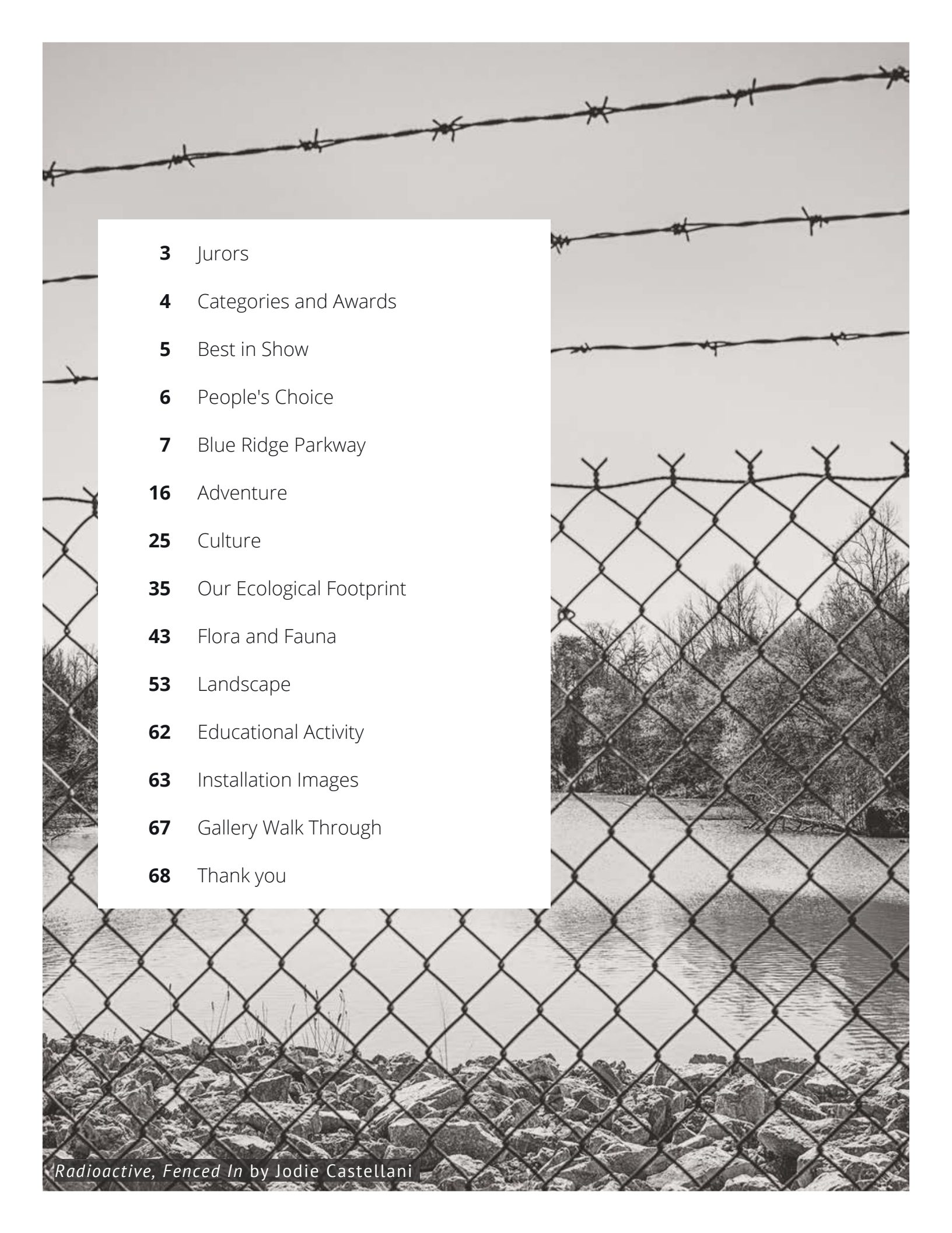


# 19TH APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

MARCH 4 - JUNE 4, 2022

MEZZANINE GALLERY



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# JURORS



## BYRON TENESACA-GUAMAN

Byron Tenesaca-Guaman is a visual artist and bilingual educator residing in Western North Carolina. Born in an ancestral Indigenous community in the Andes Mountain region of Ecuador to a family of basket weavers and agriculturists, Byron's early years were spent learning the reciprocity system that exists between humans and the mountains. At the age of 11, he was brought to the southeast part of the United States to meet and live with his biological mother.

His continued passion for art and education has also led him to take on the roles of artist-in-residence, kindergarten teacher aide and HiSET instructor. He received a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Comprehensive Education from Western Carolina University. A certified K-12 art instructor, Byron currently serves the mountain community as the visual arts teacher at Johnston Elementary School. He was one of 50 artists selected to be part of The Asheville Art Museum's inaugural exhibition "Appalachia Now! An Interdisciplinary Survey of Contemporary Art in Southern Appalachia." His artworks, in various media, document, layer and weave the memories, culture, and history of the Andean and Appalachia Mountain regions together.



## JULIE RAE POWERS

Julie Rae Powers received their MFA in Photography from The Ohio State University and their BFA in Photography from James Madison University. Recently, JR started Soft Lightning Studio, a photography publishing platform dedicated to broadening space in the photo world for image makers who are persons of color, queer, women, and others. Their work has focused on family history, coal, Appalachia, the queer "female" gaze, the butch body and queer chosen families. Their work is collected by the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Michigan and have been awarded the Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award in 2016 and 2020. For their day job they work as an instructional designer.

*JUROR'S WEBSITES:*

[BYRON-TENESACA.COM](http://BYRON-TENESACA.COM)

[JULIERAEPOWERS.COM](http://JULIERAEPOWERS.COM)

# CATEGORIES AND AWARDS

## Best in Show

\$1,000 furnished through proceeds and sponsor contributions. Once the exhibition is installed our panel of judges returns to the gallery to name one image as Best in Show. The Best in Show image is selected as the winning image from each of the other competition categories.

## People's Choice

\$250 cash award provided by the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and a camera from Nikon Professional Services. The public was given the opportunity to view all images selected for the exhibition online and vote for their favorite pick for the People's Choice Award.

## Blue Ridge Parkway | *The Power of Nature*

Competition organizers are excited to announce this year's Blue Ridge Parkway category theme, "The Power of Nature," sponsored by the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and Nikon Professional Services. The chief architect of the Blue Ridge Parkway once said, "The idea is to fit the Parkway into the mountains as if nature has put it there." For 469 miles through the Blue Ridge, visitors have a chance to see up-close the power and beauty of the ancient mountains. This year, photographers should submit images of the Blue Ridge Parkway and its connection with nature at its best: gorgeous, powerful, and inspiring.

## Adventure

Imagery depicting mountain sports such as climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding, etc. The winner will receive a \$250 gift certificate from the Mast General Store.

## Culture

Imagery depicting the people, their customs, traditions, architecture and ways of life unique to the Southern Appalachian region. The winner will receive a \$250 gift certificate from the Mast General Store.

## Our Ecological Footprint

Imagery documenting environmental concerns in Central and Southern Appalachia. Photographers submitting images to this category should include a paragraph explaining where the image was taken and the environmental impact being illustrated. The winner receives \$250 from Appalachian Voices and a \$250 gift certificate from the Mast General Store.

## Flora and Fauna

Imagery of plants and animals common to the Southern Appalachians. The winner will receive a \$250 gift certificate from the Mast General Store.

## Landscape

Scenic imagery capturing the rich diversity and natural beauty of the Southern Appalachian region. The winner will receive a \$250 gift certificate from the Mast General Store.



# BEST IN SHOW



*Radioactive, Fenced In* by Jodie Castellani

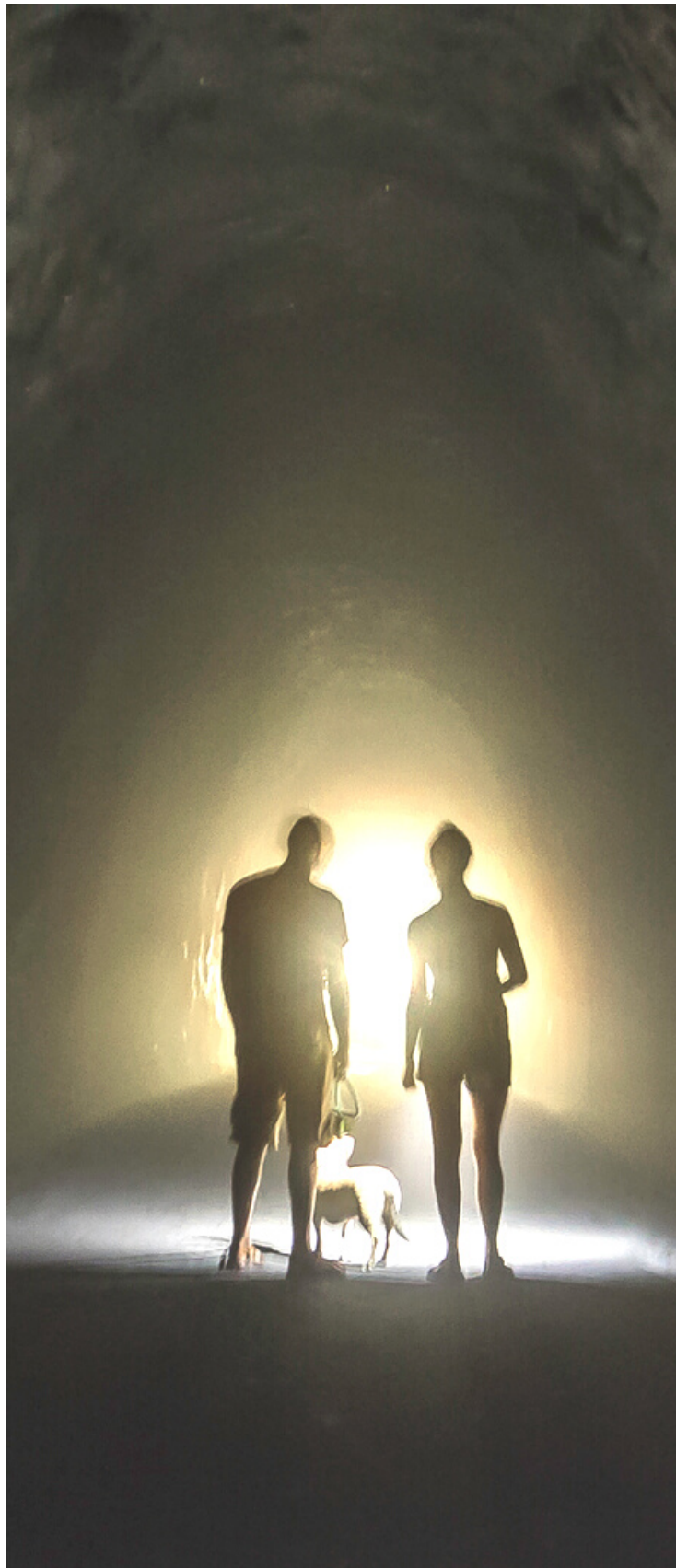
# PEOPLE'S CHOICE



*The Color of Summer by Rhonda Kingen*



BLUE  
RIDGE  
PARKWAY |  
*THE POWER  
OF NATURE*



*Hiking through the Blue Ridge Tunnel  
by Patricia B. Temples*

# CATEGORY WINNER



*Eagle Soaring over Price Lake*  
by Rachael Salmon

An eagle taking advantage of the dam failure at Price Lake. The failure of the dam resulted in historically low water levels. While the lack of water provided abundance for the eagle, it had a detrimental impact on fish and other wildlife in the area.





*Fogfall* by Jason Frye

Fog finding its way up and over the Blue Ridge Parkway on an early spring morning.



*Sunbow in MacRaes Meadows*  
by Kathryn Greven

A frigid misty morning in MacRaes Meadows created a spectacle at sunrise.



*Kayaking Price Lake* by Ken Barrett

Price Lake: Early morning kayaking in the fog.





*Hiking through the Blue Ridge  
Tunnel by Patricia B. Temples*

On a very hot day in June, walking through the Blue Ridge Tunnel under the Blue Ridge Parkway was a welcome relief. It was a cool 50 degrees inside and water was dripping through the rocks.





*Driving through on the Blue Ridge Parkway* by Patricia B. Temples

Having a driver is great when you want to take a photo showing movement through the Parkway. The fall colors and a little fog helped make this image special.



*The Color of Summer* by Rhonda Kingen

An evening summer storm ushers in colorful clouds over the Blue Ridge Mountains at Cowee Mountain overlook during sundown on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

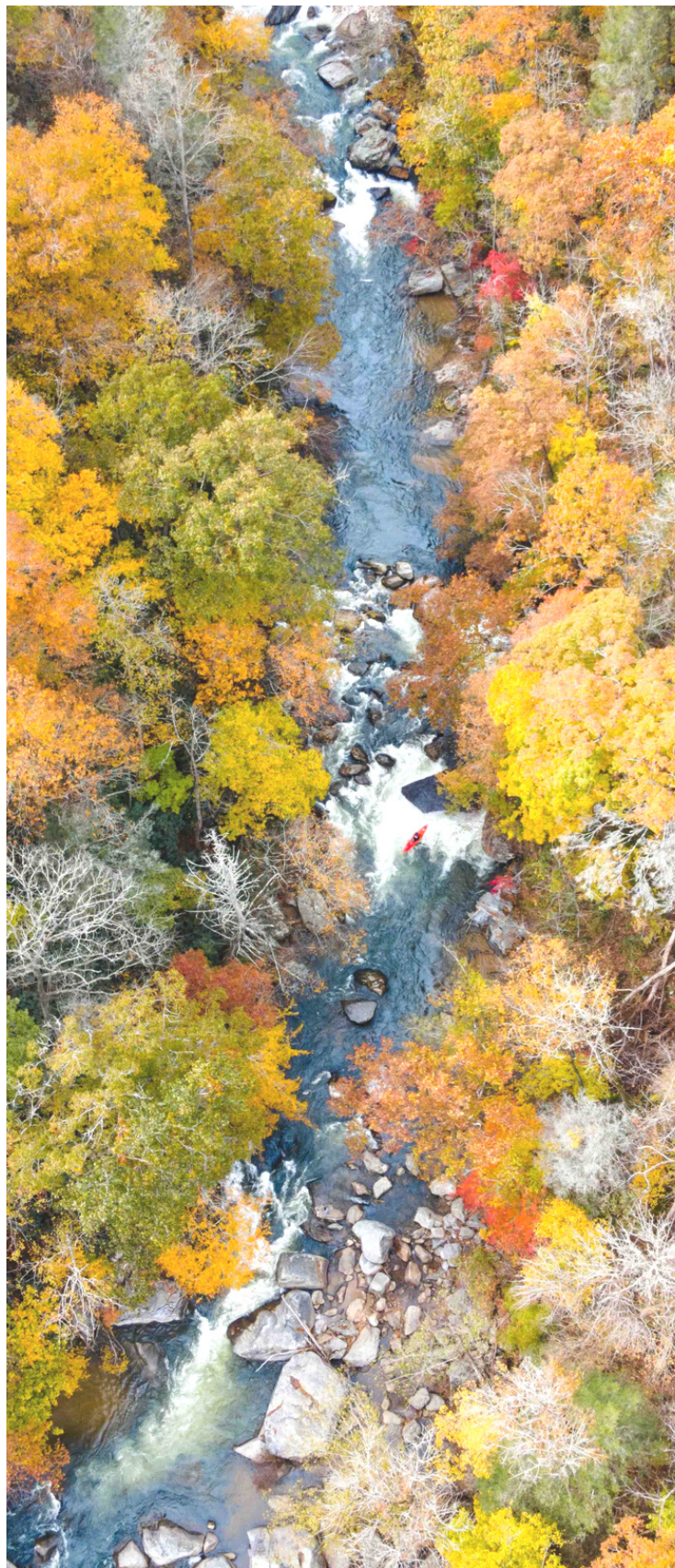


*Wilson Creek and The Tanawha  
Trail Bridge by Terri Campbell*

One of the things I love most about the Blue Ridge Parkway is how well the architecture of the man-made elements blend so well with the natural beauty of the Parkway landscape. This image is the bridge that spans Wilson Creek along the Tanawha Trail near milepost 303. This was taken as Hurricane Delta passed through in October 2020 and the waters were raging after the heavy rains.



# ADVENTURE



*The Greatest Show in all of Sports by Eifel  
Kreutz*



# CATEGORY WINNER



*Fly Fishing the Davidson River*  
by Madison Kay

Two hours before sunset a fisherman steps into the river to capture rainbow trout.





*Climb on* by Chad Blotner

Michaela Kiersch crushing her climb at Red River Gorge.





*Pure Wonder* by Drew Mercer

Nate Draughn climbs Pure Wonder (V8) – a boulder problem nestled next to the raging Linville River deep in the Linville Gorge.





*The Greatest Show in all of  
Sports by Eifel Kreutz*

A Saturday in November on the Green River -  
one of the world's most renowned whitewater  
kayaking races.





***Take Me Away* by John Rabb**

Experienced kayakers test their skills and enjoy an adrenaline rush during Tropical Depression Fred. Nobody was injured or in despair throughout their journey.





*Winter Wonderland* by Mary Presson Roberts

One brisk winter's morning, my friend Chris and I found ourselves photographing in a winter wonderland on Roan Mountain.





***Mesmerizing*** by Peggy GeFellers

My son and I were hiking in the Big Creek area when the flow of the water over the rocks seemed to capture his complete attention.





*Milking the Milky Way*  
by Shawn Mitchell

The Appalachian Mountains offer many remote and dark areas to see some the best detail in the night sky. Sometimes you have to hike and other times you need to off-road a few miles.



# CULTURE



*Dichotomous Dolly by William Richard Major*



# CATEGORY WINNER



*Sequoyah Nuclear Plant* by  
Hannah Clark

Two women boating past Sequoyah Nuclear Plant on the Tennessee River. Altered landscapes are part of daily life in Appalachia.



*Sid and McKenna* by Hannah Clark

Aunt Sid leans against McKenna to sunbathe as they boat down the Tennessee River on a warm afternoon.

**SPECIAL JURY AWARD  
WINNER**





*School Days* by Hannah Clark

Ma holds a photograph of her mother, Grandmother Shelby, as images are passed around during a family reunion. As images are passed, stories are shared with younger generations. Grandmother Shelby hated that haircut.



*Rambler Above the Ridge* by  
Joseph Seevers

After an early morning hike up Hawksbill Mountain, a friend stops to catch his breath, gazing at the view of the sunrise before him.





## *Girls Can Weld Too* by Michelle Harless

A local college student traded in her nursing scrubs for a welding torch when she realized she could make more money and work less hours as a welder. As more students recognize the opportunities available in trade jobs, more and more women are working in jobs previously not open to them.



*Of Prayer and Supplication* by  
Mike Baker

Prayer and supplication and The Church of  
Jesus Christ with Signs Following, Squire,  
West Virginia.





*Drew's Life Photo* by Tyler  
McRae

The insurmountable stress of assignments weighs on Drew as he enjoys a cigarette before the approaching darkness. Fog paints the skies on an abnormally warm fall day as life fades away by this mountain lake.



### *Dichotomous Dolly* by William Richard Major

I always wanted to leave Appalachia. When I did, I became an outsider. Even when I lived an hour away in the metropolis of Asheville, I felt like a stranger on my own land. I was eroticized for being a hillbilly. I was told that I would never amount to anything. I was told that I couldn't be taken seriously because of my accent. I was either too educated or too dumb. While I lived in Georgia working on my master's degree, I wanted to study the region I left. I fell in love with the place that I initially never wanted to live in again. When I moved back, I saw the multitudes of the region. I saw its inherent beauty in the people and the landscape. But I also saw its flaws and how most central Appalachians are taken advantage of - sometimes by their own. This piece explores the tearing of identity that many from this region feel. Pride and sadness. History and an uncertain future. Hegemony and queerness. Dolly Parton as unifier and gentrifier. Dichotomies of celebrity and place.

**SPECIAL JURY AWARD WINNER**





## *Blaze a Trail* by William Richard Major

Upon entering the Alternative Pro Wrestling promotion in Royston, Georgia, one notices a culmination of interesting sights and sounds: the dilapidation of the old gymnasium in which the event is held, children playing with their action figures while their parents laugh and converse with other members of the community, the soft blast of popular country and rock music, attendees flocking to the concession stand for off-brand carb-loaded snacks and the gentle hum of excitement that radiates throughout the air. This scene at first looks and feels like a community gathering in a small town or local church for an agape meal. But below a makeshift spotlight in the middle of the gym sits a ring – bolted to the ground with its turnbuckles, rivets, and shimmering ropes. The audience watches the empty ring in anticipation until the ambient music stops and the disembodied announcer comes over the PA system to summon the participation and recognition of our country’s national anthem. Standing with reverence with our hands and hats across our hearts we watch the screen hanging over the performers’ entrance light up with an image of the American flag slowly waving in the wind. An uproar of applause and cheers erupts after the anthem is played, the spectators take their seats, and the announcer appears in the ring like a carnival barker shouting, “Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Royston! We sure have a show for you tonight!” A thunderous roar ensues from the small crowd and the spectacle of wrestling – one of the last bastions of violent theatrics – begins.

# OUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT



*Tiny Seed by Meg Elizabeth Ward*



# CATEGORY WINNER



*Jug Factory Road* by Zane  
Logan

The southeastern region of the United States is experiencing a remarkable number of new incoming residents. Spaces that once largely consisted of acreage and farmland have been transformed into subdivisions.

# TRIGGER WARNING

*dead deer and blood on  
next page*





*Immoral* by Isabelle Vance

**SPECIAL JURY AWARD  
WINNER**

I came across this deer that had been recklessly killed for his mount and only his mount. The hunter left the rest of the body and did not take any of the meat. In my opinion, this is wrong and immoral, to do this is against the laws of nature. This is an environmental problem because if every deer gets killed for its mount, then no bucks would be left to repopulate.





***Radioactive - Fenced In*** by  
Jodie Castellani

White Oak Lake in Oak Ridge, Tennessee has been considered by some as one of the most radioactively polluted lakes in the world due to its WWII Manhattan Project heritage. Hidden in plain sight on a major highway, one must look carefully to see the signage warning of possible radioactivity in the contained area. Remediation efforts have been underway for some time, but many claim the area won't be fully restored for decades. Meanwhile, the area eerily sits and waits behind its barrier for its eventual release. Unimpeded by a mere fence, birds and other wildlife freely move in and out of the area. The barbed wire fence keeps travelers away from what otherwise looks like a scenic winter lake scene.





*Tiny Seed* by Meg Elizabeth  
Ward

This image organically appeared as my child observed the fallen timber, silently reverent and solemn. What world will they be left with?



***Development Site 3*** by Zane Logan

The southeastern region of the United States is experiencing a remarkable number of new incoming residents. Spaces that once largely consisted of acreage and farmland have been transformed into subdivisions.





*Holly Springs Road* by Zane Logan

The southeastern region of the United States is experiencing a remarkable number of new incoming residents. Spaces that once largely consisted of acreage and farmland have been transformed into subdivisions.

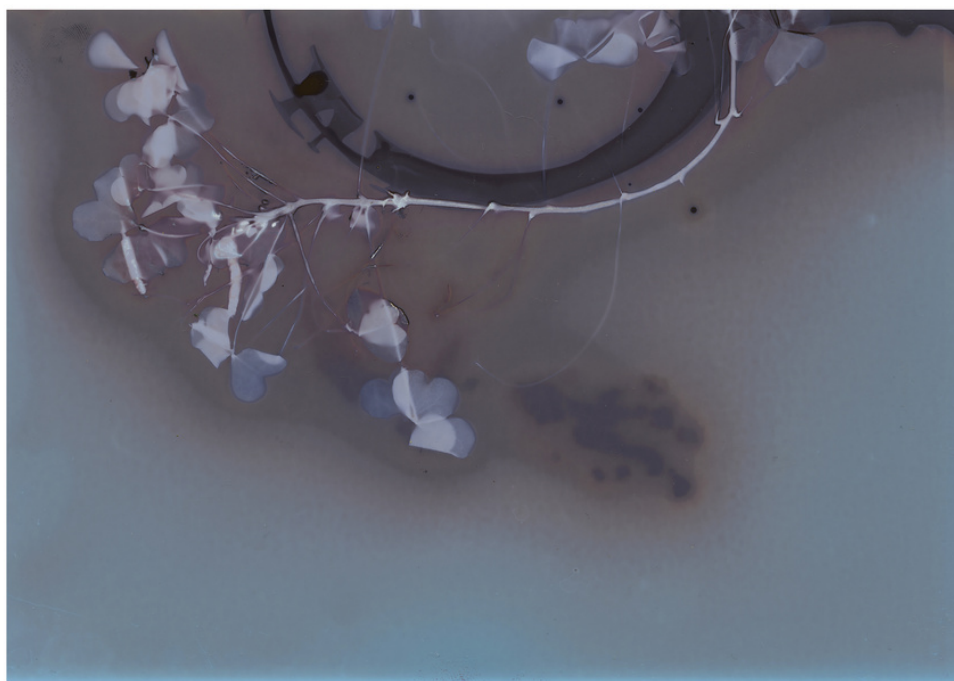
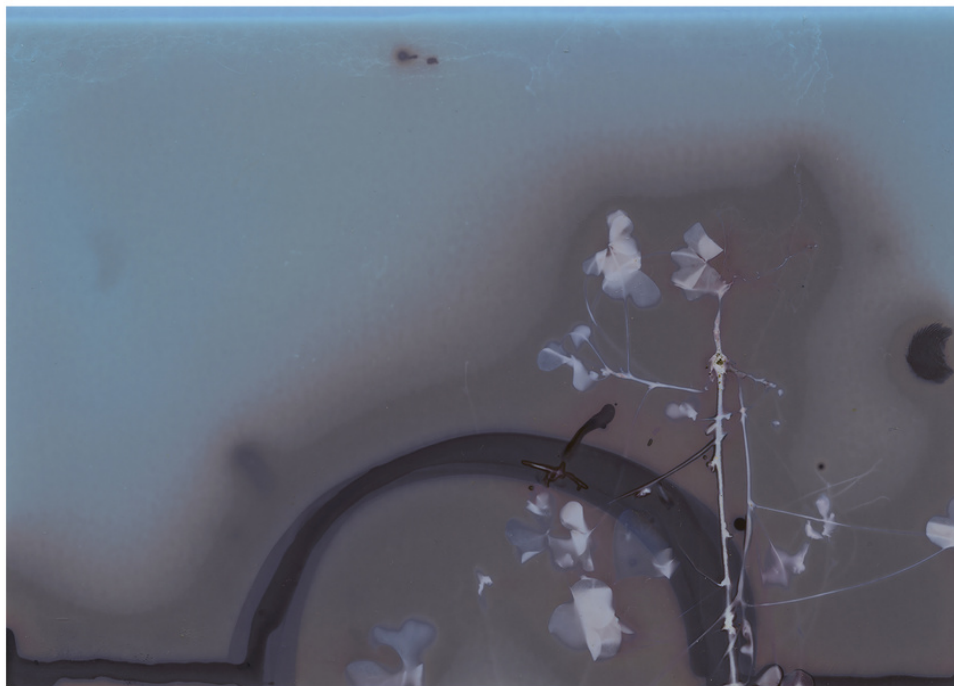
# FLORA AND FAUNA



*Sun, Sunflowers, and Bees by Shawn Mitchell*



# CATEGORY WINNER



*Backyard Clover* by Maggie Flanigan

A clover pulled from a crack between a brick wall and pavement is laid flat on photographic paper and exposed to the sun of its original location.



***Standing Tall*** by Chris Almerini

A solo tree longs for spring on Roan Mountain.





***Little Bear, Big Tree*** by Michelle Harless

This little black bear cub enjoyed the late spring sunshine as he rested in a tree.



*The Shape of Light* by Pam  
Conley

When light gently touches a surface, the character and contour of the subject take form before our eyes.





***Stand Firm*** by Pam Conley

This heron had his feet in just the right place and was standing firm in the late evening fog.



*Sun, Sunflowers, and Bees* by  
Shawn Mitchell

When walking through a field of flowers be sure to tread lightly as to not disturb the delicate pollinators who are conducting vital work for our ecosystem.





*The Unravelling* by Skip Sickler

An unfolding fiddlehead fern  
provides a lesson in patience.





*Wearing the Evening Light* by  
Skip Sickler

A large tree growing on the edge of a steep ridge wears the evening winter light as if it is a formal gown and is on its way to the Sylvan Ball.





*Fast Food* by Toril Lavender

A robin flees a holly tree during a feeding frenzy.

# LANDSCAPE



*Moonrise over Grandfather by Kathryn Greven*



# CATEGORY WINNER



*North Towards Virginia* by Ben Hill

While hiking the Appalachian Trail north of Roan Mountain, this view of the Appalachians in southern Virginia appeared in the distance.



*The Blue Hour* by Dan Grogan

Morning fog beginning to lift over the South Holston Reservoir





*Easy Street* by Dawson Tozier

Photographed from a summit near Boone, a lonely street softly winds its way through a sea of fall colors, disappearing into the mountain side below.



*Dugger Falls* by Drew Mercer

Bubbles from the waterfall are turned into long streaks due to a long exposure captured by my camera.





*Deep Down in the Gorge where  
the Whitewater by Eifel Kreuz*

Whitewater rapids down in the Green  
River Gorge, late on a summer day.



*Ashe County Drive-by* by Jim Magruder

Autumn twilight scene in Ashe County.





*Early To Rise* by Joseph Seevers

An early sunrise from the top of Hawksbill Mountain along the Linville Gorge.

**SPECIAL JURY AWARD  
WINNER**



*Moonrise over Grandfather* by  
Kathryn Greven

Infrared capture of the moon as it  
clears the peaks of Grandfather  
Mountain.





*Girls Can Weld Too* by Michelle Harless

# Educational Activity

## Telling Stories Through Photographs

### *Part One:*

Choose an image from the exhibition that you think tells a story and reflect (write, share with a friend, etc.) on these questions:

- Who are the characters in the story?
- What is the setting of the story?
- What is the plot of the story?

### *Part Two:*

Now, think of a story you would like to tell with a picture you might take of your home or environment and make that image with whatever materials are available to you. You could use a camera, a cell phone, or even draw your idea!



# INSTALLATION IMAGES

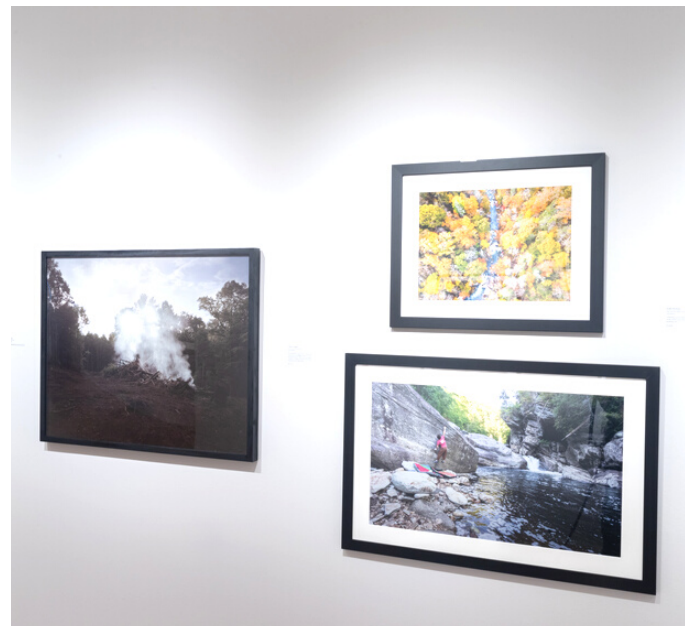
















# Walk with us through the gallery...



[click here to join](#)

[click here for additional images](#)



THANK

YOU

FROM THE TURCHIN CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University engages visitors from the university, community, nation and beyond in creating unique experiences through dynamic and accessible exhibition, education, outreach and collection programs. These programs inspire and support a lifelong engagement with the visual arts and create opportunities for participants to learn more about themselves and the world around them.



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